(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans for extension of the runway at Raipur airport to make it suitable for A-320 type of aircraft without pay-load penalty and also for the provision of instrument landing system for operation in instrument meteorological conditions.

Planes with IA

2802. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of planes operating in Indian Airlines;

(b) the new planes ordered by Indian Airlines which are yet to be delivered; and

(c) the details of the plans of Indian Airlines for strengthening the fleet by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air operate a fleet of 67 aircrafts.

(b) Indian Airlines has not placed any order for acquisition of new aircraft.

(c) Indian Airlines has plans to acquire 43 new aircrafts comprising A-319, A-320 and A-321 by way of replacement of the aircraft A-300 and B-737-200 in its fleet in a phased manner as well as to cater to the projected traffic growth in the next five years. In additions, the airlines goes for dry lease of aircraft to cater to short term requirements, which is an ongoing process.

Services from Thiruvananthapuram Airport

2803. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign countries to which the budget airlines propose to conduct services from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport;

(b) the reasons for exempting services in Thiruvananthapuram-Dubai Sector and whether Government would consider to start services in this sector; and